

# *Proclamation*

## *Presented to*

### Frederick "Freddie" Theodore Tavares

**WHEREAS**, Frederick "Freddie" Theodore Tavares learned to sing and harmonize while briefly attending Kamehameha Boys School as a boarding student from age 5, and was influenced by his brother, Nils Tavares, to learn how to play the guitar; and

**WHEREAS**, Frederick "Freddie" Theodore Tavares moved to O'ahu, once he completed his schooling, and worked at American Factors during the day, and played guitar in Larry Bellis' dance orchestra at the Alexander Young Hotel three nights a week; and

**WHEREAS**, Frederick "Freddie" Theodore Tavares professional career was established when Harry Owens took over leadership of the dance orchestra at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel; his smooth, lyrical steel guitar playing with perfect pitch, timing and rhythm became the backbone of most of their musical arrangements; and

**WHEREAS**, Frederick "Freddie" Theodore Tavares traveled with the Harry Owens Royal Hawaiians throughout the States, playing engagements at the Hotel St. Francis in San Francisco, the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel and Beverly Wilshire Hotels in Los Angeles, and went on tour in New York, Memphis, Chicago, Denver, Seattle and Vancouver; and

**WHEREAS**, Frederick "Freddie" Theodore Tavares was an uncompromising perfectionist; he is best known for his role in designing the leading, most wanted instrument in guitar history, the Stratocaster, as well as participating in the design and development of every guitar and amplifier made by Fender; and

**WHEREAS**, Frederick "Freddie" Theodore Tavares was a virtuoso on the steel guitar, playing on hundreds of recording sessions, radio broadcasts and movie soundtracks; credited with the signature steel guitar swoop at the beginning of every Warner Bros. Looney Tunes theatrical short; and

**WHEREAS**, Frederick "Freddie" Theodore Tavares was a musician, composer, arranger, and inventor; throughout his career worked with many influential artists in the music industry including Bing Crosby, Elvis Presley, Dean Martin, The Sons of the Pioneers, The Polynesians, Paradise Islanders, The Outriggers, Spike Jones, and Henry Mancini; and

**WHEREAS**, Frederick "Freddie" Theodore Tavares will be remembered in steel guitar history as one of the great masters; his highly individual, beautiful lyrical style perfectly encapsulated the spirit of his beloved Hawai'i; and


**WHEREAS**, Frederick "Freddie" Theodore Tavares will be presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award on May 28, 2011 at the Hawai'i Academy of Recording Arts Nā Hōkū Hanohano Music Festival;


**THEREFORE**, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, BRIAN SCHATZ, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim May 28, 2011, as

## **"FREDERICK 'FREDDIE' THEODORE TAVARES DAY"**

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in recognizing the significant contributions Frederick Theodore Tavares has made to the history of Hawaiian music and culture and the arts in Hawai'i.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this ninth day of May, 2011.

  
NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

  
BRIAN SCHATZ  
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i